## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

	1. A method of manufacturing a metal-covered, molded plastic
1	1. A method of manufacturing a metal constant
2	component, comprising:
3	providing a film sheet having a decorative layer of metal, the film
4	sheet being selected from the group consisting of polyester, polyurethane and
. 5	a alwaybanate
6	s the film sheet to obtain a preform,
7	placing the preform in a mold cavity of an injection mold having a
8	shape defining the desired plastic component;
9	shape defining the desired plastic component, injecting a thermoplastic elastomer into the mold cavity of the
10	injecting a thermoplastic classes.  injecting a thermoplastic classes.  injection mold to generate a structural carrier for the preform, the generation of the injection mold to generate a structural carrier and heat to bond the structural carrier
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12	structural carrier creating sufficient pressure and to a bottom surface of the preform to form the metal-covered molded plastic
.13	component; and  preventing the preform from moving in the mold cavity during the
14	preventing the preform from moving in the
15	step of injecting.
1 2 3 4	2. The method of claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic elastomer is selected from the group consisting essentially of a thermoplastic polyolefin, thermoplastic urethane, polyester, polycarbonate, acrylonitrile/ butadiene/styrene, polypropylene, a mixture of acrylonitrile/butadiene/styrene and polycarbonate, and mixtures thereof.
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1	3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of injecting a
. 1	lastic elastomer into the mold cavity occurs at a temperature of
3	turned 420°E and at a pressure of 50 psi to 13,000 psi.
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	The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of cutting
	the preform prior to the step of placing.
	The method of claim 1, wherein the structural carrier has a
	flexural modulus in the range of 15,000 to 400,000 psi.

1	6. The method of claim 1, wherein the structural carrier has a
2	durometer in the range of 15 Shore D to 100 Shore D.
1	7. The method of claim 1, wherein the film sheet has a total
2	thickness of approximately 0.2 mils.
1	8. A method of manufacturing a metal-covered, molded laminate
2	automotive component, comprising:
3	inserting a film sheet having a decorative layer of metal into a forming
4	station to form the film sheet into a predetermined automotive component shape to
5	create a formed film sheet having top and bottom surfaces, the film sheet being
6	selected from the group consisting of polyester, polyurethane and polycarbonate;
7	placing the formed film sheet in a mold cavity of an injection mold
8	having a shape defining the automotive component;
9	injecting a thermoplastic elastomer into the mold cavity of the
10	injection mold, such that the thermoplastic elastomer is in mating contact with the
1	bottom surface of the formed film sheet, to generate a structural carrier for the
12.	formed film sheet, the generation of the structural carrier creating sufficient pressure
13	and heat to bond the structural carrier to the bottom surface of the formed film sheet
14	to form the metal-covered, molded laminate automotive component; and
15	preventing the preform from moving in the mold cavity during the
16	step of injecting.
1	9. A method of manufacturing a metal-covered, molded plastic
2	component, comprising:
3	providing a film sheet having a decorative layer of metal, the film
4	sheet being selected from the group consisting of polyester, polyurethane and
5	polycarbonate;
6	forming the film sheet to obtain a preform;
7	placing the preform in a mold cavity of an injection mold having a
8	shape defining the desired plastic component; and

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9 -	injecting a thermoplastic elastomer into the mold cavity of the
10	injection mold to generate a structural carrier for the preform, the generation of the
11	structural carrier creating sufficient pressure and heat to bond the structural carrier
12	to the bottom surface of the preform to form the molded laminate plastic component
13	wherein the decorative layer of metal is coated with polyvinylidine fluoride and a
14	clear plastic layer.
_	The method of claim 9, wherein the polyvinylidine fluoride

- The method of claim 9, wherein the polyviny comprises more than 50% of the total thickness of the film sheet. 2
  - The method of claim 9, wherein the thermoplastic elastomer 11. is selected from the group consisting of a thermoplastic polyolefin, thermoplastic urethane, polyester, polycarbonate, acrylonitrile/ butadiene/styrene, polypropylene, a mixture of acrylonitrile/butadiene/styrene and polycarbonate, and mixtures thereof.
- The method of claim 9, wherein the step of injecting a 1-2. 1 thermoplastic elastomer into the mold cavity occurs at a temperature of 420°F and 2 at a pressure of 50 psi to 15,000 psi. 3
  - The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of cutting 13. the preform prior to the step of placing.
  - The method of claim 9, wherein the structural carrier has a 14. flexural modulus in the range of 15,000 to 400,000 psi.
- The method of claim 9, wherein the structural carrier has a 15. 1 durometer in the range of 15 Shore D to 100 Shore D.
- The method of claim 9, wherein the film sheet has a total 16. 1 thickness of approximately 0.2 mils. 2
  - A method of manufacturing a metal-covered, molded laminate 17. automotive component, comprising:

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inserting a film sheet having a decorative layer of metal into a forming
station to form the film sheet into a predetermined automotive component shape to
create a formed film sheet having top and bottom surfaces, the film sheet being
selected from the group consisting of polyester, polyurethane and polycarbonate;

placing the formed film sheet in a mold cavity of an injection mold having a shape defining the automotive component;

injecting a thermoplastic elastomer into the mold cavity of the injection mold, such that the thermoplastic elastomer is in mating contact with a bottom surface of the formed film sheet, to generate a structural carrier for the formed film sheet, the generation of the structural carrier creating sufficient pressure and heat to bond the structural carrier to the bottom surface of the formed film sheet to form the molded laminate automotive component wherein the decorative layer of metal is coated with a layer of polyvinylidine fluoride and a clear plastic layer.

- 18. The method of claim 17, wherein the polyvinylidine fluoride comprises more than 50%-of-the-total-thickness-of-the-film-sheet.
- 19. A metal-covered component manufactured by the method of claim 1, claim 8, claim 9 or claim 17.